Agenda

“From Art to Technology: The Challenge of Replicating and Disseminating Employment-Related Programs for Low-Income Individuals”
March 18-19, 2004

Executive Education Center
University of Michigan, School of Business
724 E. University Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Conference Summary: On March 18-19, the Michigan Program on Poverty and Social Welfare Policy hosted a working conference, sponsored by the Joyce Foundation, titled, “From Art to Technology: The Challenge of Replicating and Disseminating Employment-Related Programs for Low-income Individuals.” The purpose of the conference was to stimulate high quality innovation in welfare-to-work and other settings offering employment-related services to low-income workers. To do this, policymakers, practitioners and researchers came together to a) develop a set of lessons and b) discuss the types of research and policy and programmatic changes that can facilitate innovative approaches in these settings.

The conference centered on several concrete examples of models of employment programs for low-income people with promising evidence of effectiveness. We examined these cases in order to extrapolate lessons regarding characteristics within local sites and factors in a larger system or network that facilitate effective and successful innovation and change.

9:30 A.M. Introductions and Welcome
Richard Price, University of Michigan

9:45 A.M. Overview of Goals of Conference and Charge to Participants
Richard Price, University of Michigan

10:00 A.M. The Challenges Conceptualizing, Implementing, and Designing Programs that Serve the Low-Income: Framing Questions
Richard Price and Kristin Seefeldt, University of Michigan

11:00 A.M. Break

11:15 A.M. Case Study #1: Winning New Jobs
Max Elsman, Job Network, Baltimore County Social Services and Amirim Vinokur, University of Michigan
Facilitator: Kristin Seefeldt, University of Michigan

12:15 P.M. Lunch: Changes and Challenges in the Low-skilled Labor Market
Speaker: Dean Rebecca Blank, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
1:30 P.M.  Case Study #2: The New Hope Project  
Julie Kerksick, The New Hope Project  
Facilitator: Kristin Seefeldt, University of Michigan

2:30 P.M.  Break

2:45 P.M.  Case Study #3: Nurse-Family Partnership Program  
David Olds, University of Colorado  
Facilitator: Richard Price, University of Michigan

3:45 P.M.  General wrap-up of Day 1  
Demetra Nightingale, Johns Hopkins University

4:45 P.M.  Reception at the Executive Center (on site)  
DAY 2

9 A.M.  Introduction to Concluding Discussions: How do We Move Beyond the Challenges?  
Kristin Seefeldt, University of Michigan

9:15 A.M.  Response from Program Designers and Implementors  
Toby Herr, Project Match  
Richard Greenwald, Transitional Work Corporation  
Susan Cloutier, Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids  
Steven Redfield, Chicago Employment Service/STRIVE

10:00 A.M.  Response from Researchers  
Marcia Meyers, University of Washington  
James Riccio, MDRC  
LaDonna Pavetti, Mathematica Policy Research  
Tom Corbett, University of Wisconsin

10:45 A.M.  Response from Policy Makers  
Julie Strawn, Center for Law and Social Policy  
Jennifer Davis, City of Detroit Employment and Training Department  
Cali Mortenson Ellis, State of Michigan Governor’s Office

11:30 A.M.  Concluding Remarks and Lunch  
Kristin Seefeldt, University of Michigan